(a) the amount of grant-in-aid sought by the Karnataka Government towards the construction of hostel building for Boys of Taranath Ayurvedic Medical College, Bellary; and

(b) the amount, if any, released so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Government of Karnataka sought grant-in-aid in 1997 of Rs. 30.00 lakhs for construction of hostel building for boys and Rs. 100 lakh for purchase of library books at Taranath Government Ayurvedic Medical College, Bellary.

(b) Grant-in-aid could not be sanctioned as the utilization certificate and other related documents were not received from the institution in respect of grant of Rs. 30.00 lakhs sanctioned in 1993-94.

Direct financial assistance to Medical Colleges

t2930. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend direct financial assistance to all Medical Colleges including Muzaffarpur Medical College for imparting uniform medical education; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As 'Health* is State Subject, the Central Government has presently no Scheme under which direct financial assistance is extended to all the Medical Colleges including Muzaffarpur Medical College for imparting uniform medical education.

Vitamin A drops to children

2931. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme was/has been undertaken to give Vitamin A drops to children for taking care of malnutrition;

(b) if so, the utility of Vitamin A for this purpose; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.